“God is good, all the time, God is good. Today is the fifth Sunday in Lent. Our scripture for today is John 21:;12, 15-17. “Jesus said to them come and have breakfast. . . Again, Jesus said, Simon son of John, do you love me? He answered, Yes, Lord, you know that I love you. Jesus said, Take care of my sheep. The third time he said to him, Simon son of John, do you love me?’ Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, Do you love me? He said, Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.’ Jesus said, Feed my sheep.”

We keep thanking God for the opportunity that he has given us to be a blessing to our family, friends and community. I realize that some of us are finding it difficult to maintain social distances and we are truly missing our old ways of socializing. Sometimes in life we learn new things because of the situation we find ourselves in. Think for a moment in this life if you are born right-handed you never know how useful your left-hand is until when your right hand is injured and you are forced to use your left-hand. You quickly discover that your left hand has been underused all this time. You develop new ways of making use of it. Sometimes when things happen in life they take us to a different level that we were not expected. This coronavirus has made us think outside the box....”

[To hear this sermon like us on facebook at Nebraskacityfirstunitedmethodistchurch– or go to our website at www.nebraskacityfirstunitedmethodistchurch.org. You can also read the sermon in its entirety where it is posted on our website. If you would like a paper copy, please call the office.]
UNITED METHODIST WOMEN  
U.M.W. Happenings – April 2020

WOW! The last two weeks have given new meaning to the phrase “gone viral”! Just a few short weeks ago, all the plans for another “year in the life of Nebraska City United Methodist Women” were typed, photocopied, collated and stapled securely into the yearbook and 2020 was off and running. What can I say? Sometimes things change in a small, barely noticeable way, and sometimes things change so fast and furiously they can knock the blocks right out from under us. Hello, coronavirus!

MISSION EMPHASIS:

The United Methodist Women have a Mission Emphasis Project each month as a way to help someone or to help an organization. The Mission Emphasis for April is to bring items for UMCOR Personal Dignity Kits. Some items necessary to assemble a Personal Dignity Kit are:

- Hand towels (15”x25” to 17”x27”)
- Wash cloths
- Combs (at least 6” of teeth)
- Toenail or fingernail clippers (no emery boards or metal nail files)
- Bath-size soaps (3 oz. bar or larger – no Ivory or Jergen’s soap)
- Toothbrushes (new, still in unopened package)
- Adhesive bandages (3/4”x3”)
- Gallon-size re-sealable bags

(For a complete and more detailed list, please go to umcmission.org)

Thank you, everyone, who donated to the Mission Emphasis projects for January, February and March. We have distributed donated items to Head Start, three nursing homes and our church nursery. These Mission Emphasis projects provide an opportunity for mission in the midst of the changes! If you have not placed your items for our church nursery in the red bucket, please do so by March 29! Call the church office if your items need to be picked up and delivered to the church.

SCHEDULE:

At this point the April schedule for U.M.W. in Nebraska City reminds me of an airport arrival/departure flight board during a blizzard.

- Esther Circle scheduled for April 2 at 1:30 – cancelled
- District Spring Meeting scheduled for April 4 in Omaha – stay tuned
- Mary-Martha Circle scheduled for April 7 at 7:15 - cancelled
- Rummage sale scheduled for April 23, 24 and 25 - stay tuned (may be a good time to start on the hall closet and the junk drawer, just in case!)

P.S. I saw this on Facebook: “With church doors shutting across America, it is time for us to show that the church has never been about the building. WE are the church!”
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF:

Maintain social distance. Use the telephone to check in on your friends and neighbors. Call the church office if you know someone who is in need of help. Stay home and discourage visitors. Wash your hands. PRAY.

Missing everyone and looking forward to seeing you very soon!

Kathy Habben
U.M.W. President

General Conference will be postponed to 2021

Subsequent to the announcement by the Executive Committee of the Commission on the General Conference that the 2020 General Conference will be postponed, the full Commission met March 21, 2020 to determine next steps to take in setting a new date.

After hearing recommendations from Sara Hotchkiss, Business Manager of the General Conference, and discussion of possible alternatives, the Commission made a determination that the General Conference will not meet in 2020 as originally planned and elected to work toward setting a date in 2021.

“As we looked at the complex issues that we will need to navigate to reschedule the event and the lack of options available, it does not appear feasible to plan for 2020,” said Kim Simpson, chair of the Commission. “These issues include the undetermined length of the pandemic, uncertainty around travel bans in different areas of the world, delays in processing visas due to government and business closures and other questions.”

In giving direction for next steps, the Commission resolved that holding the event in Minneapolis is a high priority and authorized the business manager to pursue negotiations regarding other dates available at the Minneapolis Convention Center in 2021.

[This excerpt was taken from the Great Plains website - https://www.greatplainsumc.org/newsdetail/general-conference-will-be-postponed-to-2021-13535392 ]

Like us on Facebook...
Check out our facebook page to see what is happening in the church:
Nebraskacityfirstunitedmethodistchurch
United Methodist Church - Nebraska City

The Food Bank of Lincoln
“The next Food Distribution will be Friday, April 17, 2020 from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. In March the distribution took place as a “drive through” at Steinhart Park. Over 300 families were served by this distribution. For further information please contact Keitha Thomson, or Greg Baur.
We are pleased to announce your church home at the Nebraska City First United Methodist now provides online giving as an option – a convenient and secure way to make a one-time or recurring donation. When you choose to give online, your donation will transfer directly to our bank account. This is a convenience for you as you no longer need to remember to stop by the ATM or remember to bring your checkbook.

We have chosen to work with Vanco, to provide our online giving solution. Vanco currently has in the neighborhood of 25,000 churches and faith-based organizations as clients making Vanco the nation’s largest on-line giving provider in the faith-based community. In addition Vanco meets the highest standards of security and compliance in the industry. Your donations and personal information is secure, so you can give with confidence.

Vanco’s GivePlus suite offers a full range of eGiving solutions allowing our congregation to accept gifts and payments through credit and debit cards, the website, text messages, and a free mobile app.

We know that some of you already have automatic giving set up through our local Arbor Bank. The Vanco eGiving will not affect that which is currently in place. This new system is simply an added benefit for your convenience to easily support your church.

To give online, visit our website at www.nebraskacityfirstunitedmethodistchurch.org and click on the “Give online” tab to launch our giving page. You have the option to create a Profile while on our giving page, which will give you the ability to log in at any time to view your prior online donations or make changes to any recurring gifts you may have scheduled. Whether you choose to create a Profile or not, you can setup a one-time or recurring donation and designate your donation to any of our Categories of giving.

If you have any question, please feel free to call the church office for information about any of these eGiving options.

Thank you and may God Bless,

Nebraska City First United Methodist Church 2020 Finance Committee
Welcome to our New Members - March 8, 2020

Scott & Joan Hogeland

Scott and Joan transferred to us from the United Methodist Church in Benkelman, Ne. We are very happy you have chosen us as your new church family.

Drew, Ashley, Blaine, Wrigley Leyden

Dru grew up in Iowa and lived in multiple towns due to his Dad’s job with Fareway before settling in Alta, Iowa where he married Ashli on Dec. 9, 2006. Dru & Ashli welcomed Blaine and Wrigley into their family while moving around for Dru’s job with Fareway meat dept. Dru enjoys spending time golfing, coaching Blaine’s baseball team, attending both kids activities and spending time with friends and family. Ashli grew up in Alta, Iowa and comes from a big family of 11 kids, 7 of them being adopted. She works as the manager of Wildwood Golf Course and enjoys spending her free time watching both kids in their activities, coaching multiple youth sports, golfing, and spending time with her friends & family.

Zack Ottemann

Zack is the son of Chad and Tonya Ottemann. Zack has two brothers, Dallas and Mason. We are very happy to have you as part of our church family, Zack.

Darci, Claire, Connor, Michael Venem

Darci grew up in Auburn and Michael grew up in southern Minnesota. They were married at Auburn Methodist Church in 2010 and transitioned from Minnesota to Nebraska in 2013. They moved to Nebraska City in 2014 and have two children, Connor (6) and Claire (4). Darci is an audiologist at an ENT practice in Lincoln and Michael is an engineering manager at Fast Global Solutions in Auburn. They enjoy family time and visits to Minnesota to spend time on the farm and at their cabin.
**Methodist Women Mission Project**

The Methodist Women have a mission project each month as a way to help someone or to help an organization. The mission emphasis for the month of April is to bring items for UMCOR Personal Dignity Kits. Some items necessary to assemble a Personal Dignity Kit are:

- Hand towels (15”x25” to 17”x27”)
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- Toothbrushes (new, still in unopened package)
- Adhesive bandages (3/4”x3”)
- Gallon-size re-sealable bags

(For a complete and more detailed list, please go to umcmission.org) Call the church office if your items need to be picked up and delivered to the church.

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**SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

First United Methodist Seniors—Graduation will be here before you know it! Make sure you take advantage of the three wonderful church scholarships available to you. Just stop by or call our church office to pick up the application form. The form is also available at the Nebraska City Public School high school guidance counselor’s office and Lourdes Central Catholic high school guidance counselor’s office. THE DEADLINE IS April 15, 2020. For more information, you may contact scholarship co-chairmen, Cindy Meyer (402-209-1742) or Mary Stevenson (402-873-6586).

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**Website**

For a list of events and to read Pastor Charles’ Sunday sermons, google our website at: “http://nebraskacityfirstunitedmethodistchurch.org”

*KNOWING CHRIST AND MAKING CHRIST KNOWN*
In our society couples are a norm. For some us who have lost their spouse, the feeling of being left out may too often be with us. We would like to establish a small group to meet, eat, play games, go to a movie, and fellowship in Christian Love. If you are interested we will have an evening to share ideas and plan “how to” make this happen. If you have a desire to be a part of this small group, please contact the church office.

“Sing to God, sing in praise of his name, extol him who rides on the clouds; rejoice before him — his name is the Lord.
A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows, is God in his holy dwelling.”  Psalms 65:4-8 NIV

The Palm Sunday parade scheduled for April 5, 2020 for the Sunday School students has been cancelled.

NO EASTER LILIES WILL BE ORDERED THIS YEAR.

A SIMPLE WAY TO CONTRIBUTE
Thinking about a church contribution of grain in lieu of cash? All you need to provide to your local grain storage facility is the name and mailing address of the church you wish to contribute to and the dollar amount or number of bushels you wish to contribute. Contact your local grain storage facility for details.

God justifies people by which of the following?

Law
Deeds
Faith
All of the above

Reference: Romans 3:27
Explanation: Man is justified by faith.
Nebraska City FUMC
April 2020 Volunteers

Ushers (East Entry):  Duane Smith  
Ushers (West Entry):  Howard & Deb Orndorff  
Greeters (Narthex):  Dave & Luke Partsch  
Greeters (Gage Hall):  Greg Baur  
Liturgist:  to be announced

Thank you to these volunteers for your help each week.

Nursery Volunteers

April 5 - Carol Crook  
April 12 - Kathy Habben  
April 19 - Carla Roettger  
April 26 - Stacy Blum

For prayer requests, please call Phyllis Royer: 402-873-4610, or Anna Haverty: 402-873-6159. During our regular schedule, each Sunday immediately following services you are welcome to gather with us at the altar as we pray for one another. “Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise” James 5:13

From your secretary--
With all the changes happening so quickly, there are a few things I would like everyone to be aware of. First, we are working hard to be able to have online small group studies offered within the next few weeks. This information will be made available to you by email, facebook, and the website. Next please feel free to call the office to share any questions, concerns, or information that you feel is important to keep our church family connected during this time when we cannot physically meet. This might be as simple as letting Pastor Charles or me know that one of our members is in need of a phone call or a ‘thinking of you’ card. No matter how small it may seem, we have church members standing by who are always willing to reach out in any way they can. I am asking for your help so that no one is forgotten during these trying times. May God be in Your Pillow always.  Cathy S.
**NEWS AND NOTES**

Richard Gene Grotheer was born June 4, 1964 in Lincoln, the son of Kurt and Elsie (Garman) Grotheer. He lived and worked in several communities before moving to Nebraska City several years ago. He worked as a public-school teacher and worked as a CMA at nursing homes in Nebraska City and Glenwood. He enjoyed gardening, reading, camping, traveling and helping people. He was preceded in death by his mother, a long time FUMC member Elsie. Richard died March 4, 2020 at Nebraska Methodist Hospital in Omaha at the age of 55 years and 9 months. [To read the full obituary, go to marshallfuneral.com].

Lois Blanche Schultz, age 90 of Nebraska City died March 13, 2020 at The Ambassador in Nebraska City. Local survivors include her daughter, Kathy Schultz of Lincoln. Services are being delayed for a few weeks and will be announced at that time. A full obituary will also be posted at that time.

Janice Virginia (Hays) Stortenbecker, 99, Nebraska City, NE, went to her heavenly home on Sunday, March 15, 2020 in Lincoln, NE. Janice was born August 7, 1920 in Emerson, IA, to Ira Franklin Hays and Minnie Loretta (Hays) Hays. She was married to Henry E. Stortenbecker, on November 7, 1941 in Maryville, MO. Janice was a Homemaker, worked at the Pendleton woolen mill plant, and was a Methodist Church member for 80 years. Janice was preceded in death by her husband and daughter Loretta Portz. She is survived by daughters Susan Beaver (Bob) of Lincoln, NE, Marsha Biaggi (Perry) of Nebraska City, NE; sons, Henry (Linda) of Auburn, WA, Michael (Sue) of Omaha, NE and Roger (Jan) of Lincoln, NE; 10 grandchildren, and 7 great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews other relative and friends. Memorials are suggested to the First United Methodist Church of Nebraska City. For those desiring, the service will be streamed live on Marshall Funeral Chapel’s Facebook page. [To read the full obituary, go to marshallfuneral.com].

James E. Welter, Sr., age 95 of Nebr. City passed away early Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at the Ambassador in Nebr. City. James was born on March 20, 1925 in Nebraska City, NE; the son of John August and Wilma Mary (Yost) Welter. He attended school in Nebraska City and later entered the United States Army on May 7, 1945. He proudly served his country during WWII and was honorably discharged on December 18, 1946. On March 29, 1947, James was united in marriage to Carletta Mae Noah in Hiawatha, KS and they shared over 67 years of their lives together before her death on November 10, 2014. Due to the Coronavirus, services will be held at a later date and will be announced at that time. [To read the full obituary, go to gudefuneralhomes.com].

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**Daily Devotions**

Join the Great Plains United Methodists as we read scripture, reflect on its relevance to our modern lives and pray for a rotation of conference clergy, staff and delegates to our general and jurisdictional conferences in our daily devotional emails. You will also find links to the Upper Room devotional guide, prayer requests shared through our website and the opportunity to submit your own prayer request.

Read, pray, and meditate with us. [https://www.greatplainsumc.org/dailydevotions](https://www.greatplainsumc.org/dailydevotions)

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**Whoooooooosh**

The deadline for the April Flame Newsletter is April 22, 2020. *If you are currently getting a paper copy of the newsletter and wish to receive your newsletter via e-mail,* or if you are not receiving a paper copy and would like to, please call the church office at 402-873-3821.
Bishop Ruben Saenz Jr. shared a livestream communion service with clergy of the Great Plains Conference earlier this week. During that broadcast, he shared guidelines for sharing communion with people in an online worship setting and a list of things the conference staff is working on to equip and further resource congregations during these uncertain times due to the coronavirus pandemic.

As part of his presentation, the bishop announced that mission share payments are suspended for all churches until June 1, 2020, at which time the situation will be assessed again.

“At this point, it is a missional imperative that your local church has the financial capacity to sustain its mission and its operating costs,” the bishop said.

He has drafted a letter to the people of the Great Plains Conference. [To download and read the letter go to the Great Plains website.]

Great Plains Conference offices closed until at least April 27

The Great Plains Conference office in Topeka will be closed until at least Monday, April 27, to comply with the Shawnee County Health Department’s “COVID-19 Safer at Home Order” issued on Tuesday. The main switchboard will still be accessible at 785-272-9111, with staff members working remotely from their homes.
“Even in the greatest afflictions, we ought To testify to God, that, in receiving them from his hand, we feel pleasure in the midst of the pain, from being afflicted by Him who loves us, and whom we love.”

~John Wesley~

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<td>Passion/Palm Sunday Facebook Livestream - 10:00 a.m.</td>
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<td>12 Easter Sunrise - 6:30 a.m. &amp; 10:00 a.m. Facebook Livestream-</td>
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Due to the COVID-19 corona virus, all church activities have been cancelled until further notice.

Our Sunday service is being live streamed on facebook at 10:00 a.m. The facebook link is: https://www.facebook.com/First-United-Methodist-Church-Nebraska-City-

Our Pastor’s sermons are also being posted to the website. The link is: http://nebraskacityfirstunitedmethodistchurch.org/

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 402-873-3821 during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
A WORD FROM PASTOR CHARLES

“God is good all the time!! And all the time!! God is good!!
Greetings to the people of God at this time of panic and fear.
As your pastor I just wish to remind you regardless of what is happening in our country and all over the world we still remain the church. You are the church and I am the church. Christ still remains as the head of his church. I would like to lift a few words of encouragement and guidance as we go through this period of coronavirus outbreak. I would like to remind you the words of God from Psalm 46:1-2 “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea.”

. . . Stay calm in all you do. God is still in charge. Stay updated with developments. We will be streaming Sundays Sermons through Facebook live each Sunday at 10:00 am. Go there and like us on Facebook. The sermons will also be posted to the church website at ww.nebraskacityfirstunitedmethodistchurch.org